

Nova's Water Cycle Adventure

Learning objective: To describe the water cycle and explain the processes of evaporation, condensation, and precipitation.

Read the passage below carefully and use your scientific knowledge to answer the questions. Make sure to use clear sentences.

Nova the barn owl loves to watch the sky from her favourite oak tree. She notices that the water in the pond often disappears on very sunny days. This happens because the sun warms the water, turning it into an invisible gas called water vapour; this is called evaporation. As the vapour rises high into the cool air, it turns back into tiny liquid water droplets, forming clouds. This is called condensation. When the clouds get too heavy, the water falls back to the ground as rain, snow, or hail, which we call precipitation. Finally, the water gathers in rivers and oceans, ready to start the journey all over again.

Word bank: evaporation · condensation · precipitation · collection · vapour · sun

1. Using the passage, explain what happens to water during the process of evaporation. (2 marks)

2. What is the scientific name for the process where water vapour turns back into tiny liquid droplets in the sky? (1 mark)

3. Why does precipitation occur? Think about what happens inside the clouds. (2 marks)

4. If Nova finds a puddle on the ground after a rainstorm, which stage of the water cycle is this? Explain your answer. (2 marks)

5. Why is the sun so important to the water cycle? Give a reason for your answer. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram of the water cycle, showing the sun, a cloud, the rain, and a collection point like a river or a pond.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a single droplet of water. Write a short diary entry describing your journey through the water cycle. Where did you start and where did you end up?